







## PEW RENTS DO NOT SUPPORT CHURCHES.

THE following paper has been prepared for the purpose of testing, by experience obtained in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the comparative efficiency of the "pew system" and the "Free," or "voluntary system," in paying the expenses of the Churches.

The tables contain the statistics as given in the "Journal of Convention," for all Parishes presenting complete reports for the year ending May 1st, 1875, in the following particulars, to wit: 1st. The "current expenses, including salaries" and "Sunday

School expenses," and the assessment for the Convention and Episcopal funds. 2d. The number of sittings (omitting free seats in pewed churches). 3d. The income from pew rents in pewed churches, and from voluntary contributions in free churches for Parish purposes, as above defined.

For free churches which pay their expenses, only the amount of the offerings needed to pay the expenses is given, unless otherwise stated in the report.

Amounts contributed for repairs and improvements, for deficits in pewed churches on account of the insufficiency of pew rents, and for extra parochial purposes, parish schools, etc., are *excluded*. In a separate column the *income per sitting* is calculated; and finally, the deficit in pew rents. Tables I and II are parishes in the four counties outside of Philadelphia. Tables III and IV are parishes within Philadelphia County.

By this method a comparison of the two systems *financially* is secured, in a locality where the renting of seats has obtained almost exclusively since the establishment of the Church in this country.

TABLE I.  
PEWED CHURCHES BEYOND THE LIMITS OF  
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

CHURCHES.	EXPENDI- TURES.	SITTINGS.	PEW RENTS.	DEFICIT.	INCOME PER SIT'G.
BUCKS COUNTY.					
1. St. Luke, Newtown .....	\$445	225	\$238	\$207	\$1 06
2. Grace, Hulmeville.....	670	200	325	345	1 62
3. Trinity, Centreville.....	584	125	175	409	1 40
4. St. Paul's, Doylestown....	1522	250	906	616	3 60
5. St. James, Bristol*.....					
CHESTER COUNTY.					
6. St. Peter's, Great Valley*.					
7. St. John's, Pequea†.....					
8. St. Paul's, W. Whiteland..	967	275	462	505	1 67
9. Holy Trinity, W. Chester.	4217	600	2766	1451	4 90
10. St. Peter's, Phoenixville...	1435	250	750	685	3 00
11. St. James, Downingtown.	1878	100	1102	776	11 00
DELAWARE COUNTY.					
12. St. Paul's, Chester.....	3622	550	3000	622	5 40
13. St. David's, Radnor*.....					
14. Calvary, Rockdale.....	1313	425	657	656	1 50
15. Christ, Media.....	2151	500	1265	886	2 52
16. St. Luke's, Chester.....	1551	200	306	1245	1 50
MONTGOMERY COUNTY.					
17. St. James, Perkiomen.....	1520	250	280	1240	1 15
18. St. John's, Norristown....	5055	550	2438	2617	4 50
19. Christ, Pottstown.....	2186	350	1463	723	4 15
20. Redeemer, Low'r Merion*					
21. Calvary, Conshohocken...	1481	240	1093	388	4 55
22. St. Paul's, Cheltenham....	3877	450	2600	1277	5 75
17 Churches.....	\$34474	5540	\$19826		

\* Incomplete report.

† No report.

Deficit in rents, 42½ per cent. of the expenses, \$14,648.

Average income per Sitting, \$3.58.

TABLE II.

FREE CHURCHES BEYOND THE LIMITS OF  
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY. •

CHURCHES.	EXPEN- DITURES.	SITTINGS.	CONTRI- BUTIONS.	INCOME PER SIT'G.
BUCKS COUNTY.				
1. St. James, Bristol* .....				
2. St. Andrew's, Yardleyville	\$227	200	\$230	\$1 15
CHESTER COUNTY.				
3. St. Peter's, Great Valley*.				
4. St. John's, N. London.....	106	200	105	50
5. St. Mary's, Warwick.....	222	500	222	55
6. St. Andrew's, W. Vincent.	224	200	224	1 12
7. St. Mark's, Honeybrook...	376	300	376	1 88
8. Trinity, Coatesville.....	1041	180	1041	5 80
9. St. Andrew's, Oxford.....	144	125	144	1 22
DELAWARE COUNTY.				
10. St. Martin's, Mar. Hook..	1120	400	1120	2 80
11. Good Shepherd, Radnor..	1055	200	1055	5 27
MONTGOMERY COUNTY.				
12. St. Thomas, Whitemarsh*				
13. Our Saviour, Jenkintown..	2696	250	2696	10 80
14. Messiah, Gwynned.....	642	200	493	2 41
15. St. Paul's, U. Prov.....	123	100	123	1 23
12 Churches.....	\$7976	2855	\$7779	

\* Incomplete report.

Average income per sitting, \$2.73.

4 Churches which expend enough to pay a Clergyman, Nos. 8, 10, 11, 13.....	}	\$6112	1130	\$6112
--	---	--------	------	--------

Average income per sitting, \$5.50.

TABLE III.

## PEWED CHURCHES IN PHILADELPHIA.

CHURCHES.	EXPENDITURES.	SITTINGS.	PEW RENTS.	DEFICIT.	INCOME PER SIT'G.
1. Christ .....	\$4754	850	\$1474	\$3280	\$1 75
2. St. Peter's .....	8100	900	7500	600	8 33
3. St. Paul's .....	3250	1100	1266	1984	1 15
4. All Saints* .....					
5. St. James .....	13000	820	12700	300	15 50
6. St. John's, N. Lib's...	1520	1000	704	816	70
7. St. Luke's, Germ'n...	7618	500	7140	478	14 28
8. Trinity, Southwark...	3512	800	2195	1317	2 75
9. St. Stephen's .....	14640	800	12154	2486	15 18
10. St. Andrew's .....	7848	900	5998	1850	8 43
11. St. Matthew's, Fk'd.	5850	700	4440	1410	6 34
12. Grace .....	7165	850	7435	†	8 80
13. St. Mary's, W. Phila.	4719	750	5232	†	7 00
14. St. David's, Manay'k	2150	600	1525	625	3 54
15. Epiphany .....	9738	1650	9500	238	5 80
16. Ascension .....	2442	500	854	1598	1 71
17. Emmanuel, Kens'n*.					
18. All Saints', Moya'g*.					
19. St. Luke's .....	12300	1100	11350	950	10 30
20. St. Philip's .....	6481	800	3362	3119	4 20
21. Advent .....	5605	700	3921	1684	5 60
22. Evangelists* .....					
23. Emmanuel, Holm'g..	2377	300	1610	767	5 37
24. St. James, Kings'g...	2515	500	1260	1255	2 52
25. Gloria Dei .....	3083	470	1512	1571	3 25
26. Nativity* .....					
27. Redemption .....	2022	600	1110	912	1 83
28. Messiah, P. Richm'd.	1100	600	535	565	89
29. Atonement .....	7100	1000	5500	600	5 50
30. St. Mark's .....	15300	800	13040	2260	16 30
31. Mediator .....	3800	600	3845	†	6 41
32. Zion .....	2665	600	1538	1127	2 56
33. Resurrection .....	2356	300	1124	1232	3 75
34. St. Andrew's, W. P.*					

TABLE III—Continued.

CHURCHES.	EXPENDITURES.	SITTINGS.	PEW RENTS.	DEFICIT.	INCOME PER SIT'G.
35. Saviour, W. Phila....	\$6533	550	\$5576	\$957	10 15
36. Christ, Germantown..	9363	700	3170	6193	4 53
37. St. Clement's .....	9455	960	5200	4255	5 50
38. St. Paul's, C. Hill ...	4690	500	3861	829	7 72
39. Holy Trinity.....	17887	1400	17094	793	12 21
40. Covenant.....	6325	800	4183	2142	5 23
41. Calvary, Germant'n..	5412	450	3479	1933	7 73
42. St. Matthias.....	8942	1000	9491	†	9 49
43. Incarnation .....	9809	1000	6418	3391	6 42
44. St. John Evangelist..	2175	610	661	1514	1 08
45. St. Luke's, Bel. Phy. (City Mission)...	755	250	351		
46. St. Thomas .....	1356	500	358	998	72
47. Holy Apostles.....	4550	1200	2240	2310	1 87
48. St. George's, W. P.*.					
49. St. Timothy's.....	2617	300	819	1798	2 73
50. Our Merciful Saviour	2613	270	920	1693	2 80
51. Advocate .....	5000	800	3532	1468	4 16
52. St. Peter's, Germ'n...	5500	500	4091	1407	8 12
53. St. Alban's, Roxbo'h, (City Mission)...	712	250	166		
44 Churches (omitting 45 and 53).	\$265237	32630	\$200917		

\* Incomplete report.

† Surplus.

Deficit in rents, 24 per cent. of expenses, \$64,320.

Average income per sitting, \$6.16.



TABLE IV.  
FREE CHURCHES IN PHILADELPHIA.

CHURCHES.	EXPENDI- TURES.	SITTINGS.	OFFER- INGS.	INCOME PER SIT'G.
1. St. James, the Less*.....				
2. St. Mark's, Frankford.....	\$6250	800	\$6035	\$7 55
3. Crucifixion*.....				
4. St. Jude's.....	3300	460	3300	7 40
5. Trinity, Maylandville.....	1356	150	1643	11 00
6. Holy Trinity Chapel*.....				
7. Calvary, Northern Lib's...	693	350	693	2 00
8. St. John Baptist, Germ'n*				
9. St. Michael's, Germ'n.....	4408	320	4578	14 30
10. House of Prayer, Branch*.				
11. St. Timothy's, Roxbor'gh.	2574	380	3032	8 00
12. St. John (City Mission)...	174	300	319	
13. St. James, Hestonville....	1238	250	1282	5 10
14. Good Shepherd.....	1652	500	1652	3 10
15. St. Stephen's, Bridesburg.	1808	300	1808	6 00
16. St. Paul's, Aramingo (no building).....	202	80	202	
17. Messiah*.....				
18. St. Sauveur.....	1283	250	1197	4 80
19. Holy Comforter, W. P.*...				
20. St. Peter's Memorial*.....				
21. Redeemer (Seamen's Mis.)	2354	300	2354	
22. Transfiguration.....	1400	250	1402	5 50
11 Churches (omitting Nos. )				
12, 16, 21, which are City or Seamen's Missions..... )	\$25967	4010	\$26622	-

\* Incomplete report.

Average income per sitting, \$6.60.

## DEDUCTIONS.

The following facts are evident from the foregoing figures:

1st. That in the country districts no Church is supported by pew rents; that these rents pay little more than one-half the expenses, and average only  $\$3\frac{5}{100}$  per sitting; while the free churches, which are for the most part Mission stations, (eight out of twelve requiring an average expenditure of only \$200 per annum,) contribute  $\$2\frac{7}{100}$  per sitting, or three-fourths as much.

And if these Missions are excluded from the comparison, as they should be the offerings of the other four churches are  $\$5\frac{5}{100}$  per sitting, which is *one-half as much again* as the pewed Churches raise by their sittings.

2d. That in the city of Philadelphia only four churches pay expenses by pew rents, and the pew rents of all the Churches pay only three-fourths of their expenses, and average  $\$6\frac{1}{100}$  per sitting.

While the free churches contribute  $\$6\frac{1}{100}$  per sitting, *a larger amount than is received* in the pewed churches in rents, by seven per cent.

It must not be overlooked that while the pewed churches include the built up and wealthy portions of the city, the free churches are mostly in the suburbs, and in poorer districts.

These facts completely demolish the theory that Churches cannot be supported by voluntary offerings. Under every disadvantage, they obtain more in proportion to their sittings than is obtained by pew rental.

**Publication No. 5.**

FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION,  
1316 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Copies will be supplied gratuitously upon application.







